

Please call office at 651-560-2053 or email susan.cerwinske.wabashaswcd@gmail.com if you have any questions on attending physically or by phone.

We have call-in capabilities for up to 10 people. Phone# 651-560-1088 Access code # 0147478#.

**Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation
District Regular Board Meeting
April 25, 2024
8:15 am
County Conference
Room
625 Jefferson Ave.**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Lynn Zabel, Chair called meeting to order at 8:15 am.

Supervisors Present: Lynn Zabel, Chair, Sharleen Klennert, Treasurer, Dag Knudsen, Secretary, Seth Tentis, Member

Staff Present: Terri Peters, District Manager

Others Present: John Benjamin, NRCSR, Christina Taylor, NRCS Soil Conservationist, Ryan Hytry, NRCS Customer Service Lead Team, Bob Walkers, County Commissioner, Frank Klennert, citizen

On the Phone: Sheila Harmes, Winona County Water Planner and Whitewater Watershed Project Coordinator and Sue Cerwinske, Bookkeeper/Admin. Assistant

II. PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

III. AGENDA

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to approve The Agenda as presented.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments limited to 5 minutes per speaker

V. CONSENT AGENDA -Board Action

Items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Board and may be enacted through one motion. Any item on the Consent Agenda may be removed by any of the Board members for separate consideration.

- A. Voucher payment for Krista Luhmann (Luhmanns Hilltop Holstein LLC) for Contract# 2023WAGZ-WC-07 in the amount of \$1,118.50 for practice 351 Well Decommissioning
(Funding source FY23 Greater Zumbro Watershed Based (WAGZ))

- B. Wabasha SWCD Contract for Services with Ron Meiners for expanding awareness and increasing implementation of Prairie STRIPS in the West Indian Creek Watershed.

Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Tentis to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VI. SECRETARY'S REPORT – Board Action

- A. March 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve the Secretary's Report as written which was sent out earlier to review.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT – Board Action

- A. March District Financial Statements

Included for your review

- B. Program Record - March

The full spreadsheet was sent to the board in advance.

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve the Treasurer's Report to the best of our ability.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

VIII. PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

- A. Monthly Bills in the amount of \$35,937.33 - Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve Payment of the Monthly Bills in the amount of \$35,937.33 including HBC payment of \$100.31 that was added.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

IX. DISTRICT REPORTS

- A. Chair Report – Lynn Zabel

Attended the Area 7 Work Group meeting on Friday April 19th

Resolution Meeting will be on June 17 at the Stewartville Legion

Talked about having Justin Hanson attend the meeting;

Possibly taking a trip to see actual practices on the ground, by bus or van.

- J. Other agencies –Sheila Harmes, Winona County Water Planner and Whitewater Watershed Project Coordinator

Board approved the budget for 2025.

Sheila reported about the City of Altura, Winona County getting a grant to properly seal one of the municipal wells that hadn't been used for a couple of decades. Reason why it needed to be sealed is it going through multiple aquifers. It was not properly sealed in the 70's., they just shoveled in clay. Cased to 35 ft. Mark Tine cleaned it out. Interim of four days MN Geological Survey and U of M taking came down with all kinds of monitoring equipment and the opportunity to get data about the well. The well went down 700 ft. Camera was lowered down and photographed the walls of the well from top to bottom. Could see water coming in from higher aquifer. Data from GAMA Ray logs to define geological boundaries, Echo reading of openings in the well walls, tells how deep and nitrate sampling by U of M. Filming of what the well looked like as it was going down. Olmsted SWCD set up time lapse photography at top. Interview with Kristen from MDH. Will put a video together to put on WinLaC website.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Conservation Project – Lynn (open to any Supervisor for ideas)
B. Nitrate issues in the SE - **Informational**

Legislation that is being proposed.

Sheila Vanney sent Terri the information. Sheila is tracking.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. MASWCD Memo – Call for Resolutions – 2024 Resolution Process - **Informational**
i. 2024 Resolutions Process Guidelines

No resolutions yet. Would need to talk about any resolutions going forward at our next meeting, due in July.

- B. Approve Trissa Wallerich Contract# DWP-WS04 in the amount of \$2,000.00 for Practice 351 Well Decommissioning – **Board Action**
(Funding source Drinking Water Protection in the Karst Region Grant)
Motioned by Knudsen and seconded by Klennert to approve Trissa Wallerich Contract# DWP-WS04 in the amount of \$2,000.00 for Practice 351 Well Decommissioning.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- C. Invitation to the Southeast Minnesota Nitrate Strategies Work Group –
Information and Request for Participation.

Want to put together a diverse group of people to work on nitrate issue.

Once a month, 8-hour time commitment. One year commitment. Challenges and opportunities. Terri may apply to be in this group.

- B. County Commissioner – Bob Walkes
Interviewing for position, non-auto job down to 17 for Taxpayer Services. Sorting through applicants. Open book property meeting tax delegation discussions ongoing. Assessor Office, very good growth year for the County, around \$15 million.
Last week Whitewater JPB meeting.
Field Day in July
Winona County Night on the Farm south of Lewiston, Bob and Ruth Miller farm.
- C. District Manager Report – Terri Peters
Buffer Laws, couple going to the County
WCA Issue with Matt
HR options to discuss later in closed session
TSA Meeting. They were going to hire to replace Chris Nelson, but decided to wait until Pete Fryer retires. Going with staff we have until then.
Nitrate Issue in SE – MDH Meeting earlier in the week. Talking about Phase 1 and Phase 2. Phase 1 - Looking at alternate water.
Working on program to cover full cost to low-income and priority to pregnant women and households with babies under the age of one.
Limited well test kits coming.
MDH Community Meeting planning for May or June. They would like SWCD to be involved in those meetings.
 MDA meeting on Monday, will have funding for reverse osmosis. The grants both will be coming through Olmsted. Sub-agreements with us to partner with them. They want to contract directly with private, certified contractors for installation.
- D. NRCS Report – John Benjamin – (in the packet)
Board introduced themselves to Ryan Hytry, NRCS Customer Service Lead Team. Acting team lead for Washington, Olmsted, Wabasha, and Goodhue Counties. Detail to be here for 120 days, through August. Goal is to hire a permanent position. John Benjamin will be starting on Monday April 29 at Goodhue NRCS. Christina gave the NRCS report to the Board
- E. District Technician Report- Matt Kempinger – In the Packet)
- F. Conservation Planning and Outreach Technician Report– Jenna Rasmusson – (In the packet)
- G. Natural Resources Technician Report– Katelyn Abts – (In the packet)
Terri went over Techs reports.
- H. Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant Report -Sue Cerwinske
Gave short report at the meeting. Worked on quarterly invoices. Taking orders for trees and now bundling them for pick up day. Normal duties.
- I. BWSR Report –

- D. Approve Hyde Park Holsteins Contract# DWP-26 in the amount of \$2,000.00 for Nitrogen Best Management Practice, VMN Nitrogen rates – **Board Action**
(Funding source – Drinking Water Protection in the Karst Region)

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Tentis to approve Hyde Park Holsteins Contract# DWO-26 in the amount of \$2,000.00 for Nitrogen Best Management Practice, U of MN Nitrogen rates.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- E. Upcoming Events

- i. Tree pick-up day, Friday, April 26th 8 am – 3 pm
- ii. 5th Grade Conservation Field Day – May 7th
- iii. Local Work Group – June 27th starting at 10:00 am

XII. Board Reports

- A. Whitewater JPB – Lynn
- B. Zumbro 1W1P – Dag
- C. WinLaC 1W1P – Lynn

Technical Advisory Committee meeting next Tuesday, April 30th.

- D. SE SWCD Technical Support JPB - Dag
- E. County Board Meeting – Sharleen

Terri reported at the County Board meeting about our future move to a larger office in the same building.

XIII. Motion to Recess Regular Meeting and go in to Closed Session -Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to recess Regular Meeting and go in to Closed Session.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

XIV. Closed Session – Discussion

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to open the closed session on HR.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

- A. Human Resources
Discussion on HR

XV. Motion to Close the Closed session and Reopen Regular Meeting – Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to Reopen Regular Meeting at 9:53am.

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

XVI. Adjourn – Board Action

Motioned by Klennert and seconded by Knudsen to Adjourn the meeting at 9:53 am

Affirmative: Klennert, Knudsen, Tentis, Zabel

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

Respectively Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dag Knudsen', written over a horizontal line.

Dag Knudsen, Secretary